

TOWN OF TRAPPE, INC.
P.O. BOX 162
TRAPPE, MD 21673-0162

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TOWN OF TRAPPE

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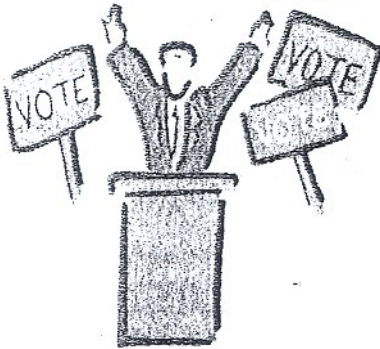


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VOL 01-02

A Publication of News

Nov., 2002



Don't Forget to Vote!!!!

There are many very important seats open in this years election, including all 5 County Commissioner seats. More than ever before, what happens around our Town will be influenced by this election. So: Vote!



Keeping Trappe a Great Place to Live

New Town Office Hours

The Town is extending its office hours. The Town clerk, Joedy Cecil, is now a full time employee and the office will be open from 8 am to 4 pm weekdays Monday Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday hours will remain 8.30 am to 12.30pm.

The mid-week afternoons will permit Joedy to prepare for the Town meetings, Planning Commission meetings, and conduct town business in Easton as needed. These hours should be more convenient for everyone having business with the Town. Jeannie will continue her current hours and continue assisting with the water billing and taxes. Of course that forced us change the telephone-recording message that Joanne Thune made over seven years ago.



To grow or not to grow. Trappe has just adopted a new Comprehensive Plan and a new set of Subdivision Regulations. The same night on which these regulations were adopted the Town received two annexation requests totaling about 1,000 acres. If these annexations are approved and the land developed the Town will be substantially changed.

We can attempt to deny new growth, but is it the right thing to do? There has been a building moratorium in place for several years. During this period Trappe has remained essentially unchanged. The down side is that there are only 450 households to share the large costs of upgrading the sewer plant as mandated by the State. In addition the EPA has enacted a requirement that drinking water be treated for arsenic. That will mandate another large loan amortization for the existing homeowners to support. Our Sewer and Water rates are already too high and we have no way to prepare for future unexpected regulations which could incur more expenses.

By 'planning' for growth, we can not only spread our current debt load over more homes, we can also make decisions now that will influence what type of growth we will have and protect our town from changes that will not benefit us. A larger, more diverse population will help revitalize our Town and perhaps bring in a grocery store or a restaurant that would be a nice addition to our Town Center, while also allowing our town to enjoy some of the benefits that a larger tax base would afford us. At the same time, planning will also allow us control over our growth and not leave it up to chance as we have seen happen all around us.

The building moratorium will be lifted within a few short months and growth pressures will commence. The Planning Commission is currently working to amend the Zoning Ordinance and develop Design Standards to insure that future development is good for the Town. These workshops are held on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Town Hall. The public is welcome. During the drafting of the Comprehensive plan and recent meetings concerning the renovation of the Town center there has been limited citizen participation. If you are confident in the planning commission's abilities, they will continue to develop protections for the Town according to their best judgment. On the other hand if you would like to see what direction the Planning Commission is working in, please find time to attend their workshops.

Help is needed with Holiday
Decorations for the Town...



Please call 410-476-3170
to volunteer. Thanks



Please make our new employee, Jackie Naylor, welcome. She has been hired as assistant water and wastewater supervisor and is working full time for Trappe. She has her operators certificate and years of experience working for the City of Bowie wastewater department. We are fortunate that she has moved to our county.

SMOKE DETECTORS
Are available at the
Trappe Fire Station.
Please call 410-
476-3535 if you
need one or if you
need to have yours checked.



There are many girls in TRAPPE who would like to join GIRL SCOUTS! But, we are in desperate need of leaders—Please call Jean Sard at 410-476-3301 if you can help.

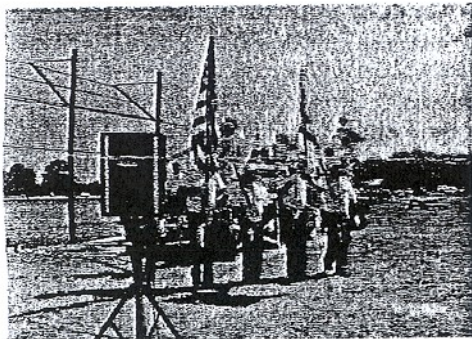
What is going on....

In your travels about the Town you may have noticed workmen in various back yards, or even in your own yard. This is part of the Town's continuing effort to upgrade the infrastructure. Most of the Town Sewer lines are about 40 years old. These lines and many of the lateral lines coming from individual homes leak. Leak badly. The Sewer Plant processes about 90,000 gallons of water a day. During the last wet period, when the water table was high, the plant was processing over 200,000 gallons a day and hit a peak of 400,000 gallons several times. It doesn't take a brain surgeon to figure out that the excess is mostly rainwater. Not only are we paying to process rainwater but also the large freshwater flows reduce the effectiveness of the Sewer plant. This in turn makes violations of our discharge permit more likely. The contractor is using a process that inserts a liner in the old Sewer pipes. This liner prevents the intrusion of tree roots, seals leaks, and improves the flow of water. Where the lateral sewer line to a private home is found to be leaking the contractor will insert the liner up to thirty feet beyond the Town Main. If further work is needed the homeowner will be contacted and negotiations will determine how to proceed.

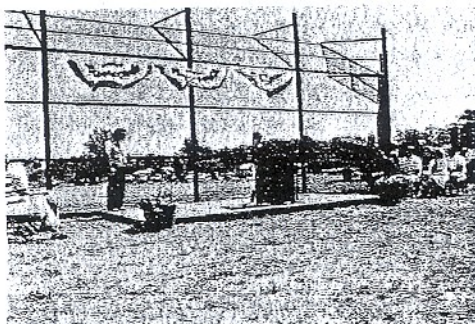


Water Meters

The Town has received a few complaints about the water bills being wrong and alleging that the meters must be wrong. The Town is responsible for all maintenance and repairs up to and including the water meter. If the homeowner uses excessive water or has a leak the responsibility remains with that homeowner. If requested the Town will have the water meter calibrated by the manufacturer but if it is found to be working properly the cost of that calibration will be billed to the homeowner. If there is a catastrophic failure and the owner is faced with many thousands of gallons of spillage there is a provision for partial rebate. Keep in mind that you as taxpayers are meeting the cost of treating excess water use in any case.



Opening day



UPDATE !!!

Phase One of the Homerun Baker Park is completed but public support and contributions are still needed. Despite the drought of State funding and rain progress is being made. Most of the grass survived the lack of rain. Maryland has reduced Project Open Space funding and all Talbot has received will go the St. Michaels community pool. This is no reason to become discouraged. Trappe received most of the POS money for several years. Contributions made now will be recorded and will qualify for matching funds in the future. In fact having raised the money in advance makes getting additional POS money more likely. Currently being planned are a walking/jogging path and an outdoor basketball court.



The Friends of Home Run Baker, Inc. & The Trappe Volunteer Fire Department

co sponsored the 2nd Annual Old Fashioned Family Fun Days this past July. The proceeds benefited the new Home Run Baker Park and the Trappe volunteer Fire Department!! Great fun was had by all.... And we are looking forward to next year....